

WE CLAIM:

1 1. An extruder drive assembly comprising:
2 a housing;
3 at least two extrusion worms each having a drive shaft
4 extending into the housing; and
5 at least one drive motor including at least one
6 cylindrical stator fixed in the housing and a cylindrical rotor
7 cooperating with the stator so as to be rotatably driven by the
8 stator, the rotor surrounding the drive shafts, each of the drive
9 shafts being independently connected to the rotor for driving
10 thereby.

1 2. The extruder drive assembly defined in claim 1
2 wherein a single cylindrical stator is disposed in the housing
3 and is surrounded by a single cylindrical stator, all of the
4 drive shafts being connected to the single rotor.

1 3. The extruder drive assembly defined in claim 2
2 wherein the single rotor is internally toothed and each of the
3 drive shafts is formed with an externally toothed spur gear, at
4 least one of the spur gears being directly meshed with the
5 internal toothing of the single rotor.

1 4. The extruder drive assembly defined in claim 3
2 wherein two of the shafts have their respective spur gears
3 independently meshing with the internal toothing of the single
4 rotor.

1 5. The extruder drive defined in claim 3 wherein one
2 of the spur gears is directly in mesh with the internal toothing
3 the extruder further comprising
4 an intermediate gear in direct mesh between the other
5 of the spur gears and internal toothing.

1 6. The extruder drive defined in claim 1 wherein there
2 are two cylindrical stators in the housing each surrounding and

3 driving a respective cylindrical rotor, each of the drive shafts
4 being connected with a respective one of the rotors so as to be
5 driven thereby.

1 7. The extruder drive defined in claim 6 wherein each
2 of the rotors is directly connected to a respective one of the
3 drive shafts.

1 8. The extruder drive defined in claim 6 wherein at
2 least one rotor is connected by at least one intermediate element
3 with the drive shaft of a respective worm.

1 9. The extruder drive defined in claim 8 wherein at
2 least one of the rotors drives an intermediate shaft coupled by
3 gearing with the respective drive shaft.

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1 10. The extruder drive defined in claim 9 wherein each
2 of the rotors drives an intermediate shaft coupled by gearing
3 with the respective drive shaft.